resonated with the audience and served as reminders to continually engage in – and probably increase again – the dialogue with writers.

Another feature of ASNEL, its self-reflexive critical and organizational practice, found further room during a panel addressing "Academic Post-Empire Imaginaries" as well as a Panel Debate on "New Directions in the Study of Literature and Culture after the Demise of Empires." The intense and highly productive debate on interdisciplinary and methodological shifts within and across the diverse fields of Anglophone literary, cultural and media practices in some ways ran through the conference as a subtext. It also echoed the conceptual challenges that were addressed in many contributions.

In 2013, the GNEL/ASNEL Annual Conference will be held at Chemnitz University of Technology from May 9-11 under the auspices of convener Cecile Sandten (Professor of English Literature) and her team. The bracketing within the theme "Re-Inventing the Postcolonial (in the) Metropolis" promises to be as productive as the question mark has proven to be for "Post-Empire Imaginaries?"

***The third International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED III),* Rostock, 18-19 May 2012**

Nicholas Brownlees
University of Florence, Italy

The third International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED III) was held at Rostock University from 18-19 May 2012. The university, which is the oldest in the Baltic region, generously provided excellent conference facilities close to the centre of this charming Hanseatic port. From this vantage point, the participants turned their attention to varying news genres and discourses from the 17th century up until the present day. Whilst the majority of the presentations focused on English news texts, the conference organisers, **Birte Bös** and **Lucia Kornexl**, also rightly decided to welcome news discourse research relating to other European cultures and languages. This decision not only reflects the marked inter-European dimension in news dissemination in early modern Europe but also the globalization of news in modern day society.

The range of news-based topics presented at the conference illustrates the multiple guises in which news has been communicated over time. For much of the early modern period written news was communicated through letters, both in the form of personal and impersonal correspondence. The latter can be referred to as newsletters, that is, the letters were frequently written up by professional news gatherers and correspondents who sent out periodical manuscript updates of both domestic and foreign news to their paid-up clients. However, personal correspondence also carried news though this frequently centred on family and local matters. This aspect of personal epistolary news in the early modern period was examined by **Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti** (University of Florence). In a paper entitled "Communicating news in a gentry network: the personal correspondence of Jane Lady Cornwallis Bacon, 1613-1644", Del Lungo Camiciotti investigated the private correspondence of Lady Cornwallis Bacon in order to assess the evolution of ways of communicating news within a gentry network and the discursive identity of a gentlewoman. The investigation of Lady Jane's correspondence seems to show that in the early modern period the function of exchanging news, including public news in personal letters, seems increasingly to serve the

function of creating an epistolary world where participants express proximity by exchanging news and gossip relevant to the correspondents' world.

However, apart from the communication of personal and impersonal epistolary news, the first half of the seventeenth-century witnessed the beginning of periodical print news in England. The first small folio, single-sheet translations of German and Dutch newssheets were sent to England in 1620, and with them periodical print news in the form of constant if not periodically regular news publications began. At first these newssheets were little more than literal translations of their European counterparts, but when London publishers decided to write up their own news publications in 1622 they immediately had to face the question confronting all news publishers and professional news writers: what language and textual framework should be adopted to help persuade readers that the money they are spending is a good investment. It is this question which **Nicholas Brownlees** (University of Florence) examined in his paper, " 'We have in some former bookes told you': the significance of metatext in early modern news". Through an analysis of terminology news writers themselves adopted in relation to their own publications during the first decades of periodical news it is possible to gain insights into not just how seventeenth-century English news discourse evolved but why.

This same historical period was also the focus of the paper presented by **Elisabetta Cecconi** (University of Florence). However, rather than concentrating on seventeenth-century periodical news publications and formats, she also took into consideration broadsides and occasional news pamphlets in her examination of seventeenth-century crime news. In her comparative analysis of this news topic, she investigated how crime news was reported in relation to page layout, proto-leads, discourse structure, and the distribution and relevance of authorial metadiscourse and factuality. The findings in Cecconi's paper, as indeed in many of the papers, was based on retrievable electronic corpora that in the past few years have entered the public domain. These new, easily accessible resources are proving a great stimulus to exciting research in historical news discourse. All those researchers (and not a few were at the Rostock conference) who have spent many a long day on the compilation and digitization of historical news corpora should be warmly applauded for their efforts in promoting research in historical news. One of the most well-known of these corpora is the ZEN Corpus (The Zurich English Newspaper Corpus) that consists of 1.6 million words and is presently the largest digitized corpus of late 17th- and 18th-century newspapers. Compiled under the supervision of **Udo Fries** (University of Zurich), the ZEN corpus provided the source texts for Fries's paper at Rostock. In his examination of "Home news from 1665 to the end of the 18th century", Fries underlined some of the distinguishing content and linguistic features of British home news over this 130-year period.

A characteristic of all forms of news discourse, both domestic and foreign, historical and present, involves referencing to time and space. However, while such referencing is common in the 17th and 18th centuries one needs to examine such referencing within the discourse practices and readers' world knowledge of those times. To what extent did the relatively slow transmission of news, coupled with readers' limited awareness of extra-territorial geographical knowledge, influence the comprehension and realization of spatial and temporal news language? These questions were examined by **Claudia Claridge** (University of Duisburg-Essen) in her paper entitled "News in Space and Time".

Changing news discourse practices, and the bearing these have on the language of news, were also examined by **Birte Bös**. Although now at the University of Duisburg-Essen,

Bös had previously been at Rostock University where she worked on the Rostock Newspaper Corpus. This 600,000 word corpus comprises British news reports from 1700 to 2000. In her paper "300 years of news discourse: An expedition through the Rostock Newspaper Corpus", Bös illustrated how an analysis of keywords and their collocations in the Rostock Corpus can help us detect important changes in the concept of news and news procedures over the last centuries.

In his paper, "Colloquialization in Nineteenth-century News Discourse", **Erik Smitterberg** (University of Uppsala) also made use of a digitized corpus, though his corpus comprises nineteenth-century British news texts. In his examination of the Corpus of Nineteenth-century Newspaper English (CNNE), Smitterberg focused on the extent to which features of colloquialization that characterise much of the modern press can also be detected in nineteenth-century news discourse. **Isabel Ermida**'s paper likewise focused on the nineteenth-century but rather than analysing hard news itself what was examined was a parody *cum* satire of news reports. The reports in question were written by Mark Twain, and in her presentation – "Historical precursors of spoof journalism: the case of Mark Twain" – Ermida (University do Minho) examined some of the linguistic and discursive strategies employed in the very amusing spoofs. Such hoaxes as "Petrified man" (1862) and "A bloody massacre near Carson" (1863) are considered pertinent illustrations of a genre – news satire – that blends social criticism, humour and intentional deception.

These above papers focused either directly or indirectly on published hard news but it is well known that as the English press developed from its humble, one-sheet days of the early seventeenth century so the kind of news included in the weekly, biweekly, tri-weekly and then daily publications became ever more variegated. One of the topics that attracted increasing attention was medical and scientific news. In her plenary address entitled "Medical and scientific news in England 1650-1800: texts targeted at professional and lay audiences", **Irma Taavitsainen** (University of Helsinki) examined this topic within the 150-year period from 1650-1800. The two publications that were examined in depth were the eighteenth-century *Gentleman's Magazine* and the 1665 numbers of the periodical journal *Philosophical Transactions*. Making use of two corpora — the *Early Modern English Medical Texts* (2010) for *Philosophical Transactions* and *Late Modern English Medical texts 1700-1800* for the *Gentleman's Magazine* — Taavitsainen combined a qualitative study with corpus-based methodology to investigate the transition from the thought-styles of the earlier periods to the later, more modern approaches to the making of scientific news.

However, the kind of news that increasingly came to find its way into the Late Modern newspapers did not just centre around the traditional news narrative associated with hard news or the more culturally involved exposition typical of such topics as medical and scientific news. What became ever more important in the periodical English press was advertising. Described by Addison in 1710 as "accounts of news from the little World", advertising came to take up increasing amounts of newspaper space as its financial contribution to the publication's well-being became ever more important. It is this importance that was addressed by **Minna Palander-Collin** (University of Helsinki) in her paper on "Changing genre conventions and socio-cultural change in newspaper advertisements". Basing her study on advertisements in *The Times*, Palander-Collin analysed trends in advertisement referencing to the advertiser, the audience and third parties during the nineteenth century. One broad trend involved the decrease in person referencing over the

course of the century as advertisements moved from a person centred to a more product centred style.

The four other papers to complete the CHINED III programme were primarily focused on news language in non-English speaking environments though given the cross-border dimension of media discourse the studies provided a stimulating intercultural perspective to the previous contributions. **Jorge Pedro Sousa, Sandra Tuna** and **Elsa Simões** (Fernando Pessoa University) presented a paper entitled "Royal and belligerent propaganda in *Mercúrio Português* (1663-1667): Discursive representations of royal power and governmental ruling of Castelo Melhor". Simões, who was presenting on behalf of her colleagues, provided initial findings regarding the extent to which the Portuguese periodical *Mercúrio Português* – published in the context of the Portuguese war of independence against Castile and against the backdrop of palace intrigue eventually leading to the overthrow of king Alfonso VI – was essentially propagandistic or informative in purpose. The research question links up well to other Early Modern debate regarding the role of periodical print news. For example, to what extent were the similarly named English mercuries of the 1640s and 1650s the expression of straightforward journalistic enterprise or rather the mouthpiece of political faction?

Iberian affairs were also tackled by **Rita Luis** (Pompeu Fabra University) though in this research the focus is on the Portuguese Revolution of 1974-1975. The presentation – "The Spanish reaction to the Portuguese revolution of 1974-1974 viewed through the legal daily press" – examined meaning making in the Spanish reporting of the Portuguese revolution. In particular, Luis indicated ways in which headline choice, language display and use of pictures contributed to meaning construction.

The final two papers of the conference took us outside the confines of print news and right up to the present day. **Lena Gialabouki** (University of Thessaloniki) spoke on "Changes in the generic structure of Greek television news: from narrative to dialogic forms of news broadcasting" while **Elizabeth Prommer** (University of Rostock) gave a paper on "New forms of news via Twitter, Facebook and Blogs". Both papers underlined the interactive features of modern-day news transmission, whether it be through television news or social networks such as Twitter.

Many thanks go to the conference organizing committee – Birte Böes, Lucia Kornexl and Birte Dammann – for providing not only a very stimulating conference programme but also a most enjoyable range of social activities both in and outside Rostock. On the back of the success of CHINED III, we are already looking forward to CHINED IV (Helsinki, 2014) and CHINED V (Fernando Pessoa, 2015).

Nicholas Brownlees, Gabriella Del Lungo and John Denton (eds) 2010. *The Language of Public and Private Communication in a Historical Perspective*. Newcastle u.T.: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Dirk Schultze
University of Göttingen, Germany

Though based on a 2009 Florence conference, the volume under discussion is decidedly intended as a stand-alone work on the topic, rather than loosely presenting contributions to the biennial Italian conference on the History of the English Language (p. 1). The individual chapters thus explore how far private and public forms of communication can be identified as